

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wilson et al (5,400,246)

-- In considering claims 1-16, the claimed subject matter that is met by

- 1) the claimed central control unit is met by the PCU(12);
- 2) the claimed plurality of local units are met by the X-10 modules which communicate with the PCU, provide status information to the CPU, control the appliances at various locations throughout the system and as well provide status and control signal from the CPU(see column 25, lines 1 et seq.).

The Applicant most respectfully traverses the position of the Examiner with respect to the rejection of Claims 1 - 15, and specifically points out that the limitations cited in these claims are nowhere disclosed or suggested in the Wilson reference. The Wilson reference is a complicated data acquisition system which discloses and claims subject matter not directed to the present invention. On the other hand, the present invention discloses and claims a very specific warning system design which embraces numerous unique features which differ substantially in both structure and utility from those disclosed by Wilson. Contrary to the teachings of Wilson, the present invention includes a plurality of Local Units, each having a collection of alarms and programmable responses. No such structure is disclosed in Wilson. Consequently, the Applicant most respectfully maintains that the rejection of Claims 1 - 15 does not constitute a *prima facie* case for anticipation. Therefore, and also in keeping with 37 CFR 1.106(b), the Applicant most respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the following:

Regarding Claim 1:

Nowhere in Wilson are the following limitations either expressly or inherently disclosed:

" . . . a plurality of programmable responses thereto;

said plurality of programmable responses for each said local unit tailorable to meet the needs of a particular location; and,

said plurality of input trips including a disconnect trip indicating that said central control unit has failed.”

Therefore, in accordance with MPEP 2131, Claim 1 is not anticipated by the cited reference and is therefore allowable.

Regarding Claim 2:

Nowhere in Wilson are the following limitations either expressly or inherently disclosed: *“said plurality of programmable responses including a warning output signal sent from said local unit to said central control unit which indicates the presence of a local emergency.”* Therefore, in accordance with MPEP 2131, Claim 2 is not anticipated by the cited reference and is therefore allowable. Additionally, Claim 2 depends from allowable Claim 1 and is therefore also allowable.

Regarding Claim 3:

Nowhere in Wilson are the following limitations either expressly or inherently disclosed: *“said warning output signal being sent when a loss of local unit power is detected.”* Therefore, in accordance with MPEP 2131, Claim 3 is not anticipated by the cited reference and should therefore be allowable. Additionally, Claim 3 depends from allowable Claim 2 which depends from allowable Claim 1, and is therefore also allowable.

Regarding Claim 4:

FIG. 2 of Wilson does disclose a smoke detector. However, Claim 4 depends from allowable Claim 1 and is therefore also allowable.

Regarding Claim 5:

Nowhere in Wilson are the following limitations either expressly or inherently disclosed: *“said plurality of input trips including an earthquake detector.”* Therefore, in accordance with MPEP 2131, Claim 5 is not anticipated by the cited reference and is therefore allowable. Additionally, Claim 5 depends from allowable Claim 1 and is therefore also allowable.

Regarding Claim 6:

FIG. 3J of Wilson does disclose a smoke detector. However, Claim 6 depends from allowable Claim 1 and is therefore also allowable.

Regarding Claim 7:

Nowhere in Wilson are the following limitations either expressly or inherently disclosed: “*said plurality of input trips including a noxious or poisonous gas detector.*” Therefore, in accordance with MPEP 2131, Claim 7 is not anticipated by the cited reference and is therefore allowable. Additionally, Claim 7 depends from allowable Claim 1 and is therefore also allowable.

Regarding Claim 8:

Nowhere in Wilson are the following limitations either expressly or inherently disclosed: “*said plurality of programmable responses including illumination of and emergency light.*” Therefore, in accordance with MPEP 2131, Claim 8 is not anticipated by the cited reference and is therefore allowable. Additionally, Claim 8 depends from allowable Claim 1 and is therefore also allowable.

Regarding Claim 9:

Nowhere in Wilson are the following limitations either expressly or inherently disclosed: “*said plurality of programmable responses including illumination of a strobe light.*” Therefore, in accordance with MPEP 2131, Claim 9 is not anticipated by the cited reference and is therefore allowable. Additionally, Claim 9 depends from allowable Claim 1 and is therefore also allowable.

Regarding Claim 10:

Nowhere in Wilson are the following limitations either expressly or inherently disclosed: “*said plurality of programmable responses including the broadcast of an audio message.*” Therefore, in accordance with MPEP 2131, Claim 10 is not anticipated by the cited reference and should therefore be allowable. Additionally, Claim 10 depends from allowable Claim 1 and is therefore also allowable.

Regarding Claim 11:

Nowhere in Wilson are the following limitations either expressly or inherently disclosed: “*said audio message being a verbal message that is broadcast in a plurality of different languages.*” Therefore, in accordance with MPEP 2131, Claim 11 is not anticipated by the cited reference and is therefore allowable. Additionally, Claim 11 depends from allowable Claim 10 which in turn depends from allowable Claim 1, and is therefore also allowable.

Regarding Claim 12:

Nowhere in Wilson are the following limitations either expressly or inherently disclosed: “*under non-emergency conditions, said central control unit broadcasting preselected audio to each of said local units.*” Therefore, in accordance with MPEP 2131, Claim 12 is not anticipated by the cited reference and should therefore be allowable. Additionally, Claim 12 depends from allowable Claim 1 and is therefore also allowable.

Regarding Claim 13:

Nowhere in Wilson are the following limitations either expressly or inherently disclosed: “*when one of said input trips is activated, said preselected audio is disconnected.*” Therefore, in accordance with MPEP 2131, Claim 13 is not anticipated by the cited reference and is therefore allowable. Additionally, Claim 13 depends from allowable Claim 12 which in turn depends from allowable Claim 1, and is therefore also allowable.

Regarding Claim 14:

Nowhere in Wilson are the following limitations either expressly or inherently disclosed: “*under emergency conditions, said central control unit allows for broadcasting at least one of (1) preselected audio, and (2) live voice instructions to at least one of said local units, of which no local trip has been tripped.*” Therefore, in accordance with MPEP 2131, Claim 14 is not anticipated by the cited reference and is therefore allowable. Additionally, Claim 14 depends from allowable Claim 1 and is therefore also allowable.

Regarding Claim 15:

Nowhere in Wilson are the following limitations either expressly or inherently disclosed:

“said plurality of programmable responses including a warning output signal sent from said local unit to said central control unit which indicates the presence of a local emergency;

said warning output signal being sent when a loss of local unit power is detected;

said plurality of input trips including an earthquake detector;

said plurality of input trips including a noxious or poisonous gas detector;

said plurality of programmable responses including illumination of an emergency light;

said plurality of programmable responses including illumination of a strobe light;

said plurality of programmable responses including the broadcast of an audio message;

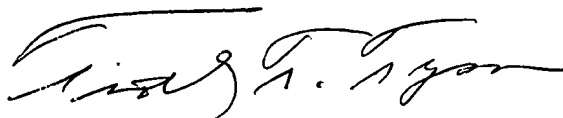
under non-emergency conditions, said central control unit broadcasting preselected audio to each of said local units; and,

when one of said input trips is activated, said preselected audio is disconnected.”

Therefore, in accordance with MPEP 2131, Claim 15 is not anticipated by the cited reference and is therefore allowable. Additionally, Claim 15 depends from allowable Claim 1 and is therefore also allowable.

In view of the above, the Applicant respectfully requests allowance of all the claims remaining in the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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